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The Honorable Thomas Y. Allen
Mayor of Galena
Galena, Kansas 66739

Dear Mayor Allen:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 1988, requesting that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) consider conducting health investigations and exposure studies at Galena. You also asked about the Agency's exposure and disease registries. I am pleased to provide you with the information that you seek. In addition to this letter, ATSDR maintains two regional representatives in Region VII, David Parker and Daniel Harper. Both are located in Kansas City, Missouri, and can be reached at telephone number 913/236-2856. I have asked that they contact you.

The ATSDR is authorized by the Superfund Law, as amended in 1986, to conduct health assessments of sites where hazardous chemical substances have been released into the environment. As you would expect, we work very closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State agencies, and local health departments in the conduct of our work under Superfund. The ATSDR health assessment is our analysis of all relevant data (environmental data, demographic data, toxicological data, health records, etc.) for the purpose of ascertaining the public health implications of individual waste sites and sites of chemical spills.

We conduct a health assessment as a necessary first step to determine if there is a scientific basis for conducting more intensive health studies and other follow-ups. For example, a health assessment may indicate the need for a pilot health effects study (e.g., biological exposure assessment, health screening survey, cluster investigation), surveillance, registry, or epidemiologic investigation. The starting point for what needs to be done is our health assessment.

The Superfund, as amended, permits an individual to petition ATSDR to conduct a health assessment of a site of concern. If you wish to formally petition ATSDR to consider conducting a health assessment in Galena, Kansas, you should make your request in writing to me at the following address:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop F-38
Atlanta, Georgia 30333



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SUPERFUND RECORDS

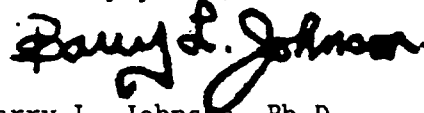
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Requests to ATSDR to conduct a health assessment should contain, at a minimum, (1) the name, address (including zip code) and telephone number of the requestor; (2) the organization or group the requestor represents, if any; (3) the name and location of the facility or release of concern; (4) a statement by the requestor of his or her perception of the potential health problems associated with the facility or release; and (5) a statement requesting ATSDR to perform a health assessment.

In addition, the requestor should include, if available, (1) any other information pertaining to the facility or release, such as the nature and amount of the hazardous substances of concern, indicating, if known, the media contaminated (e.g. soil, groundwater, air, surface water, food chain); (2) potential pathways for human exposure; (3) the nature and proximity of the potentially affected human community; and (4) Federal, State, or local agencies which have been notified or which have investigated the facility or release.

Enclosed is a Fact Sheet that describes ATSDR. I hope this information is helpful. You should be hearing from our regional representatives soon. In the meantime, if you desire more information about ATSDR and its health assessments, please feel free to contact Dr. Mark Bashor, Director, Office of Health Assessment. His telephone number is 404/488-4810.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry L. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barry L. Johnson, Ph.D.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

cc:
M. Bashor
D. Parker
D. Harper

ATSDR:OHA:BJohnson/LSmith:cpw 12/9/88

City Of Galena

FROM THE OFFICE OF

MAYOR

GALENA, KANSAS 66739

2 for your
handling. Please
prepare a
reply for my
signature.
BJ

October 26, 1988

Dr. Barry Johnson
ATSDR
Mail Stop F-38
1600 Clifton Road N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Our area has a history of lead mining. The area still has several open mine shafts and chat piles remaining from the mines. The Environmental Protection Agency has verified the presence of heavy metals in the chat piles and rural water wells. A number of residents are concerned about the high rate of Cancer, Heart problems, Kidney and Lung diseases in this area compared to other neighboring areas. The E.P.A. is working on projects to clean up some of the mined land and provide a new source of water to residents outside the City that are presently using contaminated wells.

I understand your agency conducts exposure studies and health investigations, also that you maintain an exposure and disease registry. I would like to request your agency consider the Galena area for a survey.

Please send more information about your services, costs of same, and if this is the type of area you would survey. Due to the nature of this request I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

CITY OF GALENA

Thomas Y. Allen

Thomas Y. Allen
Mayor

cc: Dr. John Neuberger

